

AUSTRALIAN BEE JOURNAL

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AUSTRALIAN BEE JOURNAL

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Cover photo: Tino Corsetti

**Deadline for copy for the December 2025 journal is
10pm on Monday 1st of December 2025.**

The Australian Bee Journal seeks to publish contributions dealing with all aspects of beekeeping.
Statements expressed by contributors do not necessarily reflect the views of the VAA Inc or the editor.
Editor: Annette Engstrom

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The Victorian Apiarists' Association Inc. (VAA)



The VAA was founded in 1892 and is the peak body for beekeeping in Victoria.

The Association advocates to federal, state, and local governments to protect and improve Victoria's honey resources and to ensure beekeepers' interests are safeguarded and promoted. We work to secure effective legislation and encourage scientific investigation and research in all aspects of beekeeping.

Our achievements include:

- Introducing the Victorian Apiary Code of Practice allowing bees to be kept in urban areas
- Contributing to the new Apiculture on Public Lands Policy through our involvement with the Buzz Committee
- Working with Plant Health Australia which contributed to the development of the Australian Biosecurity Code of Practice.

The VAA advocates for the beekeeping industry on behalf of all beekeepers in Victoria.

Management

The VAA Board meets a minimum of six times a year.

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Ken Gell

Finance & Insurance

Ken Gell

Education

Andrew Wootton

Melbourne Show

Richard Collins

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Lindsay Callaway

Conference

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Resources

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Commercial beekeeping

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All beekeepers and interested groups are welcome to join the VAA.

Membership benefits include:

- The VAA's monthly magazine *Australian Bee Journal* (ABJ) including one free classified ad per year
- Access to the members' only section of the VAA website www.vicbeekeepers.com.au
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President's Report

Dear Beekeepers

The 2025–2026 beekeeping season is well under-way. Our commercial beekeepers have now moved from their pollination season efforts to their honey-producing prospects, with pockets of Yellow Gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon*) and some opportune ground flora resources filling the gap between early spring and our promising summer River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) flow. It is exciting to see such a wide-spread, heavy budding on our mighty Red Gum, which in some areas will be supported by a strong budding of Black Box (*Eucalyptus largiflorens*).

In late October, the VAA Board met for a full-day strategic planning session. I liken this to how we, as beekeepers, are always thinking ahead to the next honey flow or pollen resource for our bees. Planning for the future and setting “SMART” goals works and is essential to any successful organisation. A professional facilitator, with expertise in agricultural business consulting, guided board members through a series of discussions, exercises and analyses that helped us bring focus to the most important initiatives and projects our association should work on in the coming three to five years.

The strategic planning day has provided us with a clear framework to develop our goals further, and I look forward to engaging with members in the coming weeks to share the new strategic plan. One of the strongest themes from the day was the importance of our commu-

nity and the support we provide to one another as we face the challenges of beekeeping, varroa, environmental change and economic instability. Despite these challenges, I'm pleased to report that the VAA remains financially strong, supported by a dedicated board keen to strengthen the apiculture sector across Victoria.

The VAA has two major opportunities each year to raise funds for our members. The first is our annual conference, which this year achieved record engagement across registrations, sponsorships and revenue, a testament to the enthusiasm and unity of our beekeeping community. The second is our booth at the Melbourne Royal Show, where our dedicated organising committee and more than 75 volunteers delivered a near record-setting outcome in sales and revenue. I was impressed by the committee's willingness to experiment with new and different products, including a three-jar “We're Beekeepers” pack, a range of gourmet chilli honeys and the Grand Champion honey from our 2025 apiculture competition.

The committee also designed new banners and signage that expanded the use of the VAA brand. For the first time we added a TV display, showcasing over 100 photos of bees, beekeepers and Victoria's beautiful landscapes, many from our 2025 photography competition. We also engaged with a primary school, turning the VAA “triangles” into colourful works of art champi-

(Continued on page 6)

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President's Report, cont'd

(Continued from page 5)

oning the importance of bees and our shared environment. I also want to extend our gratitude to the sponsors who donated honey and other products, helping to add tens of thousands of dollars to the event's success.

At the conclusion of the Melbourne Royal Show, we sent a survey to all volunteers to better understand their experience and motivations. Early feedback shows the top three reasons people volunteer with the VAA are:

- They enjoy talking to the public about bees, beekeeping and honey.
- They like to help the VAA succeed.
- They like to feel part of a community.

Our association can't achieve anything without the generosity of our volunteers who contribute to our projects and events as part of Victoria's greater beekeeping community. We are committed to continuous improvement, and these surveys help us gather valuable feedback to make each year's event even stronger.

Congratulations are also due to the VAA's Bendigo Branch, who hosted yet another outstanding Beekeeping Field Day in Harcourt in October. The event is one of the largest beekeeper gatherings in our state, bringing together recreational and commercial beekeepers, vendors and government officials for an engaging and thought-provoking day. It was a pleasure to present my hive transport system and take part in the panel discus-

sion. I was impressed by the attention given to speakers and the intelligent, focused questions asked. One silver lining of the varroa incursion is that it has united all beekeepers with a common challenge, encouraging collaboration, learning and renewed engagement with our hives. That spirit was evident throughout the field day. The VAA was proud to sponsor the event and assist the Bendigo Branch in promoting it.

Planning has already commenced for the 2026 Annual Conference and AGM. This year we are committed to hosting the event in northern Melbourne, ideally close to the airport for ease of access for members across Victoria and our interstate and international guests. While the program is still being finalised, we expect it will continue to focus on varroa, biosecurity and the major topic of "resources."

It is worth noting that during our strategic planning workshop, the one issue that clearly stood out was the importance of resources, nectar and pollen for our bees' sustainability. In addition to recent media reports, we have received written confirmation from DEECA that the *Beekeeping on Public Lands* policy (developed in 2013) remains in effect. This policy was developed in collaboration with the apiary industry and ensures continued, secure access and streamlined administration for apiculture on public lands.

We have also communicated to members about two grants we received through DEECA's *Livestock Biose-*

(Continued on page 7)

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President's Report, cont'd

(Continued from page 6)

curity Education Fund. The first, approximately \$50,000, supports a study into the restoration of the state's Box Ironbark forests. In October and November, project teams visited several forest sites across Victoria to establish baselines for degraded and restored habitats. The second grant provides approximately \$50,000 per year for the next three years to develop education and communication resources that fill the gap as the T2M VDO program winds down. The VAA is working to build a trusted, accessible and flexible suite of biosecurity education tools, particularly around varroa management and AFB. Stay tuned for more updates on this exciting initiative.

An early highlight in this space was the delivery of a one-day varroa specialist workshop in late October. Bee clubs from across the state were invited to send two representatives for advanced training on varroa management and chemical treatments. The day was an enormous success, and I congratulate the VAA and AgVic/VDO teams who worked tirelessly on a tight timeline to make it happen.

This spring, my team's monitoring confirmed the first detection of varroa in my own hives. While it was inevitable, it was still a sobering moment. My reaction,

however, was simply "welcome to the show" - an acknowledgment that this is now part of our shared beekeeping reality. The important thing is how we respond: calmly, professionally, and with good management. A positive mindset will serve all Victorian beekeepers as we navigate this new chapter together.

Our varroa journey will be long and challenging. I recently returned from APIMONDIA in Copenhagen, and it was sobering to see that even after decades, varroa remains the world's greatest beekeeping challenge. There were many highlights from the trip, but the stand-out for me was the spirit of collaboration, the friendships new and old, the passion, and the care for our bees that filled every hall. The exhibition spaces, innovation showcases and honey competitions all carried the same message, expressed in many languages but united in purpose: a shared love of beekeeping.

As we enter summer, I am confident that Victorian beekeepers will continue to demonstrate resilience, professionalism and care, the very qualities that define our industry and our community.

Kind regards
Lindsay Callaway
President,
Victorian Apiarists Association Inc.

The Australian Bee Journal welcomes contributions and photos from readers and members. Please send any letters, articles or photos to abjeditors@yahoo.com

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The advertisement features a central collage of images in hexagonal frames: a beehive, a stack of colorful plastic boxes, a person in a beekeeping suit, a close-up of a beehive, a person smiling in a shop, a beehive, a person in a beekeeping suit, a beehive, and a beehive. Below the collage, a large yellow banner reads "BEEKEEPING NOTEBOOK".

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Bendigo Branch At The Bendigo Show

The Bendigo Branch of the VAA was invited to attend the 2025 Bendigo Agricultural Show and we jumped at the invitation. As the show was close to the Melbourne Royal Show, we thought we could sell some of the stock that was left over.

The call went out for volunteers to help set up and talk bees and sell honey. As usual we have a fantastic group of volunteers that always are ready to dig in and help.

The weather was kind to us with a cool and sunny day on Friday, and the sun was out on Saturday until a small shower came over in the afternoon. Thank goodness we were undercover in a pavilion.

Visitors to our stall were constant over the two days with lots of interest in our viewing hive. The kids loved trying to find the queen and were so excited when they did. It did help that we had her marked. Lots of conversation about bees and getting into beekeeping. We were encouraged by the interest and looking forward to seeing new members at our meetings and activities.

Well, that is a wrap for October and it has been a very busy one for the branch. Thank you again to all of our volunteers.

Peta Dawe

Photos: Lorraine



The stand at the show



Queen in viewing hive

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BEEPLAS AUSTRALIA

HiveKeepers Wins Gold For Innovation

HiveKeepers Wins Gold for Innovation at the World Beekeeping Awards Copenhagen, Denmark

Melbourne-based HiveKeepers has been awarded Gold for Innovation at the Apimondia World Beekeeping Awards, the most prestigious recognition in global apiculture. Often described as the Olympics of beekeeping, this award represents the highest international honour for excellence and advancement in the field.

Held in Copenhagen, Denmark, the World Beekeeping Awards celebrate the most forward-thinking contributions to global beekeeping. HiveKeepers' Gold Award recognises the company's groundbreaking work in developing new technologies that make beekeeping more accessible, sustainable and resilient in the face of environmental change.

"Receiving gold at Apimondia is a career-defining moment, not just for HiveKeepers but for Australian innovation," said Simon Mildren, Founder and CEO of HiveKeepers.

"We have spent years developing our Micro Honey Harvester, a system that empowers both backyard beekeepers to harvest honey more efficiently and commercial producers to present their honey in new ways. This award tells us we are on the right path."

Innovation Born in Melbourne



The Gold Award-winning Micro Honey Harvester was designed and engineered in Melbourne, Australia in collaboration with Katapult Designs. It represents a complete reimagining of how honey is harvested, addressing one of the most time-consuming and physically demanding aspects of beekeeping.

Traditional honey extraction often involves heavy lifting, sticky cleanup and equipment that can intimidate even experienced beekeepers. The Micro Honey Harvester replaces that complexity with a compact, portable system that allows beekeepers to harvest

honey quickly with minimal waste, mess or disruption to the bees.

"We wanted to take the pain out of harvesting," said Mildren. "Beekeepers deserve a cleaner, faster and more respectful way to collect honey, one that allows speedy harvests and more time to focus on bee care."

Fighting Honey Fraud and Creating Farm-to-Plate Transparency

Beyond convenience, the Micro Honey Harvester is also designed to address one of the biggest challenges facing the honey industry: honey fraud. Globally, more

(Continued on page 10)

The deadline for the December Bee Journal is 10pm on Saturday 1st of December



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HiveKeepers Wins Gold For Innovation, cont'd

(Continued from page 9)

than one-third of honey sold is estimated to be adulterated or mislabelled. HiveKeepers' innovation allows a future where consumers can harvest honey in their own home, and verify that the honey is genuine and traceable.

"We talk a lot about farm-to-plate in agriculture, and now we are delivering that same transparency to honey," said Mildren. "When you taste honey from a Micro Honey Harvester, you know exactly where it came from. It is real, local and honest."

Technology with Impact

The Micro Honey Harvester combines precision engineering with HiveKeepers' deep understanding of bee behaviour and sustainability. Every element, from beekeeper work flow to material design, has been informed by years of field testing and beekeeper collaboration across Australia and Europe.

"We did not just want to make another piece of equipment," said Mildren. "We wanted to create a platform for change, one where technology makes beekeeping more accessible, traceable and sustainable."

HiveKeepers' innovation arrives at a crucial time for the global beekeeping community, as the sector faces increasing pressures from climate change, biodiversity decline and supply chain disruption. The Micro Honey Harvester's design reflects HiveKeepers' belief that

small, scalable innovations can create meaningful change for beekeepers and the environment.

A Global Collaboration

This recognition highlights not only the HiveKeepers team but also a worldwide collaboration spanning Australia, Romania and the international Kickstarter community, whose support helped bring the Micro Honey Harvester to life.

"This gold medal belongs to every person who believes in what we do, from our design partners to the beekeepers testing our tools in the field," said Mildren. "We are honoured, grateful and more determined than ever to make a global impact."

With this recognition, HiveKeepers continues its mission to redefine modern beekeeping by creating technologies that strengthen beekeeping practices and safeguard the crucial role bees play in ecosystems and food systems worldwide.

About HiveKeepers - HiveKeepers is an Australian ag-tech company redefining how the world engages with beekeeping. The Micro Honey Harvester was designed and created in Melbourne, Victoria.

HiveKeepers Wins Australian Good Design Award for Excellence in Design and Innovation

Melbourne-based ag-tech company HiveKeepers has

(Continued on page 11)



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HiveKeepers Wins Gold For Innovation, cont'd

(Continued from page 10)

been recognised in the 2025 **Australian Good Design Awards**, receiving the prestigious Good Design Award Winner accolade in the Concept Design category for its groundbreaking Micro Honey Harvester.

The Australian Good Design Awards is one of the world's longest-running international design award programs. Each year, it recognises the most outstanding examples of design and innovation across industries. This year's theme, "Design for Better", highlights the power of design to create a more balanced, inclusive and sustainable world - a message that sits at the heart of HiveKeepers' mission.

Recognised by Australia's Design Leaders

The Good Design Awards Jury commended HiveKeepers for its innovation and design excellence, stating:

"HiveKeepers is a radically simplified honey harvesting system designed for both honey producers and consumers. Its cassette-based design eliminates mess, complexity and bulky gear, transforming honey extraction into a clean, intuitive experience. It allows anyone, anywhere to harvest honey at home, without needing to keep bees themselves. This is a very clever solution coupled with professional design. Well done to the team for this achievement."

Vespa velutina detection in New Zealand

A new detection of a yellow-legged Asian hornets in Auckland is a stark reminder that despite Australia having varroa there are still significant pests on our doorstep that we don't want. Asian hornets are an aggressive predator of insects, especially honey bees and other pollinators. Exotic to Australia and New Zealand, these hornets can form colonies of up to 2000 individuals in peak season and can have a dominating role in many ecosystems with venom that can be incredibly painful and potentially lethal to vertebrates, including humans.

Biosecurity New Zealand has this week reported the presence of yellow-legged hornets (*Vespa velutina*) following the discovery of a queen hornet in the early stages of building a nest in the suburb of Glenfield near Auckland. The nest was removed by biosecurity officers on 17 October.

This is further to the two separate male yellow-legged hornets found earlier this year in suburbs of Grafton and Albany. The yellow-legged hornet is a biosecurity concern due to its potential impact on honeybee industry.

From the AHBIC October newsletter



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Lindsay Callaway
Warral Maldon Honey

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HiveMeet October 6th: AI Summary

I asked NoteGPT to summarise the YouTube recording from last month's meeting. The result is astonishingly good. All I had to do was supply the URL! (Andrew Wootton).

The video session, hosted by Hive Meet and streamed live on YouTube, features an in-depth presentation by Alan Riach from Scotland on managing Varroa destructor, a parasitic mite that poses a major threat to honeybees. Alan, a highly experienced beekeeper and former president and education officer of the Scottish Beekeepers Association, shares practical knowledge and decades of experience in Varroa management, focusing on the situation in Scotland but offering insights applicable globally, including Australia.

Alan begins by explaining the spread of Varroa in Scotland, noting some remote islands remain Varroa-free and are important refuges for the native black bee (*Apis mellifera mellifera*). He emphasizes the critical threats to honeybee colonies - primarily Varroa and inadequate winter feeding - and stresses the importance of regular mite monitoring and registering hives with local beekeeping associations.

The presentation covers Varroa's biology: it is a blind mite that hides on brood and adult bees, using chemical mimicry to avoid detection. Alan highlights Varroa's role in spreading viruses, especially Deformed Wing Virus (DWV), which greatly increases the harm caused to colonies beyond the physical damage from mite feeding. He introduces the evolution from synthetic pesticides to organic acids and now to breeding Varroa-resistant queens as part of integrated pest management strategies.

Alan explains monitoring methods, including natural



mite drop counts and brood infestation checks, and demonstrates a modern online Varroa calculator developed to assess mite populations and guide treatment decisions. He strongly advises against automatic chemical treatments and instead promotes treatment only when mite loads reach damaging thresh-

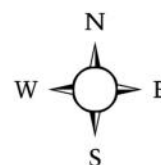
olds.

Various treatment options are discussed: synthetic pyrethroids (with noted resistance issues), organic acids such as oxalic and formic acid, and thymol-based products. Alan stresses the importance of alternating treatments to prevent resistance and keeping detailed treatment records for food safety and regulatory compliance.

The talk then shifts to breeding Varroa-resistant bees, focusing on the natural hygienic behaviors that disrupt mite reproduction. Alan explains how bees' high genetic recombination rates facilitate rapid evolution of resistance traits, but cautions that confirming resistance requires training and that treatments should continue until resistance is well established. He cites examples like Cuba, where Varroa-resistant bees emerged following a massive die-off without treatment.

Alan concludes by emphasizing the importance of training and education in Varroa management, describing the comprehensive Scottish Beekeepers Association education system that integrates Varroa management at every level.

The Q&A session addresses practical concerns such as extended-release oxalic acid strips, mite counting methods, the Australian context of Varroa and DWV absence, colony loss surveys, and the timing of brood breaks to control Varroa. Alan provides thoughtful answers, reflecting his deep experience and cautious but optimistic approach to Varroa management.



HiveMeet

"Beelining: finding feral colonies"

Guest Speaker: Joe Riordan

Streaming Live



Thursday 4th December, 8pm

youtube.com/VictorianApiristsAssociation

VAA HiveMeet is sponsored by B-Qual



New Book: Considerate Beekeeping

CONSIDERATE BEEKEEPING THE BUCKFAST VIEW

By John Kennedy

We know that beekeepers come in all shapes and sizes and with all sorts of practices, objectives and aspirations.

But are you a considerate beekeeper?

The newly published UK book titled *Beekeeping - A Practical Guide for Considerate Beekeepers* poses this question and provides some answers.

It is authored by Clare Densley and Martin Hann who have close associations with the famed Buckfast Abbey.

Both are practicing apiarists, educators and fulfill important industry roles as well as watching over the current and continuing Buckfast bee activities.

The book is a first edition paperback of 192 pages, and has a list price of 18 pounds 99 shillings, to which \$A conversion and postage must be added.

Included are many archive photos and modern images

which show the Abbey's bee department work that continues currently.

The science behind honey bee behaviour, techniques to calm and 'reset' bees with practical advice on making the best out of unplanned situations are encompassed.

There are also a series of how to guides on finding the queen, queen rearing, and colony splitting.

Numerous local beekeepers will hold or have acquired the three volumes of reprints of the original leading work and lifetime experiences of the redoubtable Brother Adam of Buckfast Abbey in Devon, and the unique breed of bees he developed from his worldwide endeavours, which remain, at least in part, available to beekeepers in the northern hemisphere to this day.

This book seems likely to be in demand from beekeepers interested in the Buckfast activities of recent times.

For your copy contact the publisher Northern Bee Books at www.northernbeebooks.co.uk

Jon Williams from Sunraysia sent in a recent clipping from the *Sunraysia Daily* newspaper. It was about how research is being done by Wildlife Unlimited on new outbreaks in Sunraysia of the Mallee Looper caterpillar, after a devastating flare-up in South Australia, which has seen thousands of hectares of eucalypts stripped bare. For information on this research see the Mallee Conservation blog post [here](#)

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Bendigo Branch Field Day

A Buzzing Success at Harcourt – Bendigo Branch's 44th Annual Beekeeping Field Day

By Jessica Ruedin
Photos: Barry

The Bendigo Branch of the Victorian Apirists' Association held its 44th Annual Beekeeping Field Day in Harcourt, and what a day it was. The sun was shining, the bees were busy, and the whole place was buzzing with energy.

From brand new beekeepers to seasoned honey producers, everyone came along to the field day ready to learn, share ideas, and catch up with old friends.

The day began with a warm welcome before we dived straight into a full program of talks and demonstrations. A real highlight was hearing from the Varroa Development Officers. With Varroa now in our region, their advice on how to spot and manage mites was both timely

Beginners Corner



and reassuring. They showed us how to do alcohol washes, explained treatment options, and talked about keeping hives healthy and strong.

Over in the beginner's area the sessions were busy all day with people learning the basics, from buying bees and setting up a flow hive, to understanding queens, splits, and hive inspections. You could really feel the excitement from those just starting out.

Open Hive



For those wanting to dig a little deeper there were excellent presentations on bacterial diseases, honey extraction, and Varroa treatment plans.

A lovely addition this year was the children's workshop where kids got hands on building native bee hotels and learning about Australia's native bee species. Their faces lit up with excitement and we

(Continued on page 25)



The Band



Enjoying the atmosphere

Bendigo Branch Field Day, cont'd

(Continued from page 14)

might have even seen a few future beekeepers in the making.

Of course, no good Field Day is complete without food and live music. Our canteen was busy all day serving up BBQ lunches and cold drinks, and the addition of live music was a very welcome touch.

The atmosphere was friendly and relaxed all day long, the kind of event that reminds you why our beekeeping community is so special. Days like this also show just how important it is to lean on the VAA and our local branches for support, guidance, and connection.

Whether you're just starting out or managing hundreds of hives, there's always something to learn and being part of a club means you're never alone in facing new challenges. The advice, friendship, and shared experience within the VAA community are truly invaluable, especially now with Varroa management becoming a part of everyday beekeeping.

A big thank you goes out to all the volunteers, presenters, and Bendigo Branch members who helped



Richard and Sam - Treatment Options

make the day such a success. After 44 years, the Field Day continues to bring people together with the same warmth, excitement, and love for the bees that started it all.

**See page 35 of this issue
if you are interested in a great
discounted advertising offer**



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ALMOND POLLINATION

OUR POLICY FOR OPTIMUM BEE HEALTH & POLLINATION OUTCOMES:

- To supply alternative forage sources for bee arrivals where possible
- To supply water for bees at hive sites
- No weedicides to be sprayed when hives present
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- If a crop protectant spray is required, the choice of product would be

discussed with the beekeeper/broker and it will only be applied from late afternoon to early morning outside of bee foraging periods

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- Hive inspections to ensure endemic diseases and hive strength are monitored.



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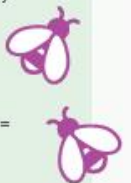
1,570 Ha

9,500 HIVES
SWAN HILL REGION



WHAT TO KNOW

- We have had a relationship with the bee and pollination industry that spans over 30 years
- Bloom period = month of August
- Mature hive stocking rates = 5-6 hives/ha
- Minimum pollination standard = 8 frames of bees per hive



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NEAA Field Day Again Shows Its Value

By John Kennedy

The long running series of the annual Beekeeping Field Days offered by the North Eastern Apiarists' Association (NEAA), held at Swanpool (between Benalla and Mansfield) on Sunday 5 October, again demonstrated its relevance and educational benefit to beekeepers at all levels.

Where else do you get important industry information, with demonstrations provided by leading sideline and commercial beekeepers working over ten four hive palletted loads of bees as the demonstration material. They are brought in for the day by a leading NSW based commercial beekeeper and have usually just been on almond pollination or canola crops, so they are in good condition and docile, though the day is still a bee suited up event.

At a cost of \$80 the day includes worthwhile morning and afternoon teas, plus lunch in a collegiate setting.

The NEAA Committee this year invited commercial beekeeper Glenn Locke, down from Coffs Harbour, as the guest speaker.

His presentation topic was - what have I learned and can impart from managing a business of five by 20 hive lots of bees for principally honey production, and a little berry crop pollination under a northern NSW, heavily varroa mite dominated environment.

He has a wealth of knowledge and experience having kept bees since high school!

Glenn's message was clear – you need to learn how to work your bees, to test regularly for mite loads and to choose a treatment method. It now requires more work and vigilance, but it will work for you and your bees.

He also said to be prepared to share your experiences with others, join as many professional associations and

VAA like seminars as you can to build your knowledge base, especially true for Victorian beekeepers now facing the mite.

After the meeting I was prompted to investigate Glenn's excellent website and I suggest it is worth a look by all interested in bees.

He trades as Mt Coramba Apiculture, with his own 100 hives located in the local Coffs Harbour region, which he noted has a large number of commercial beekeepers since it is a major berry fruits production centre (blueberries and raspberries).

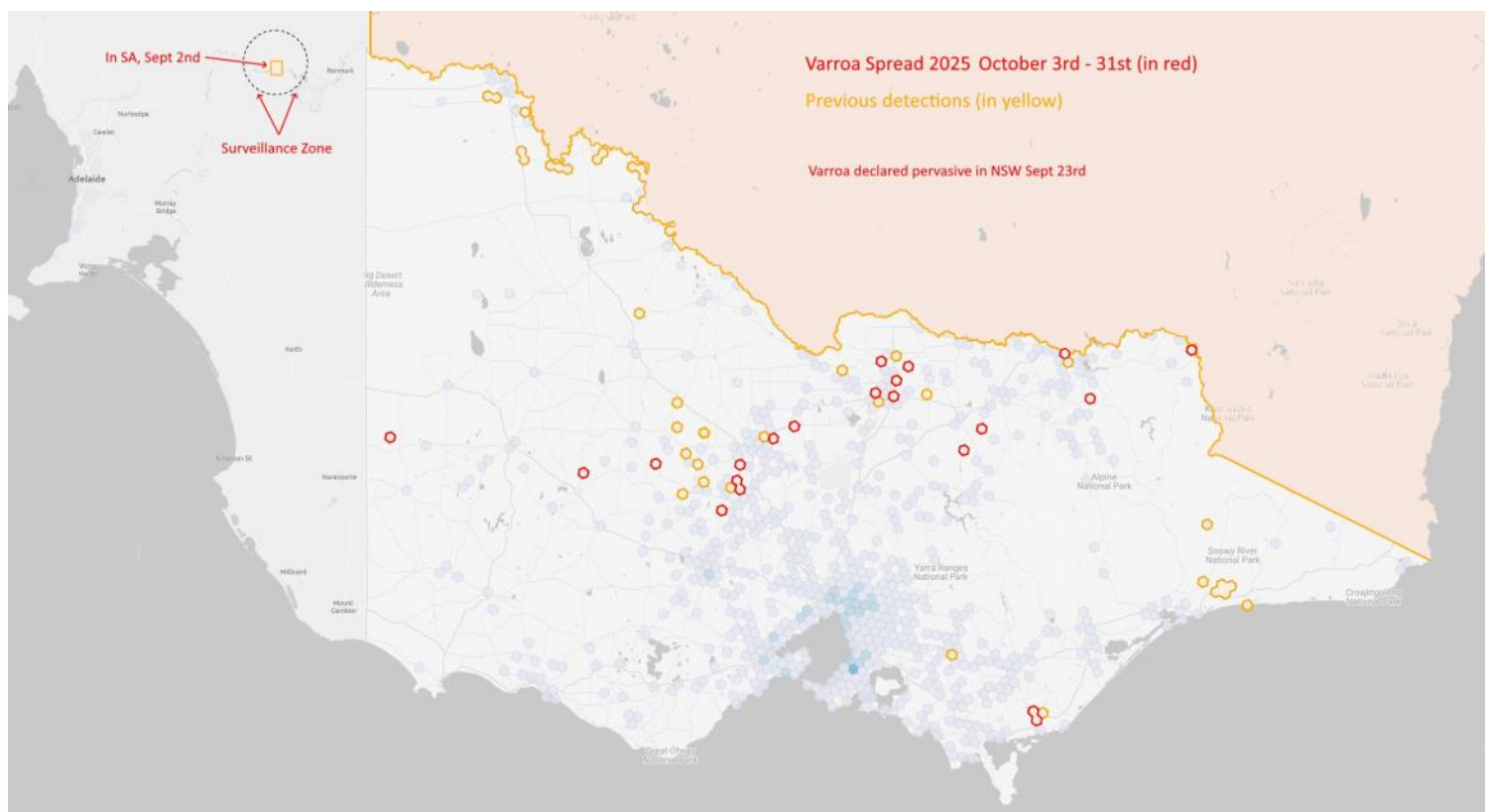
He noted also that he audits other pollinating beekeepers for the large Costa's fruits group, which is active in the region.

On his website he also provides a good list of does and don'ts for beekeepers.

As an aside I was interested to see he has a particular interest in old bee and beekeeping catalogues, some dating back to the 1900's, for the information they provide on the evolution of Australian beekeeping over more than a century. But be warned if you are motivated to print up his historic collection make sure your printer is well loaded as his collection of historic catalogues and text collection runs to about 40 printed pages.

The practical over hive demonstrations of the day provided a lot of useful information including mite washes with methylated spirits, assessment of seasonal hive health, queen or no queen status, brood and drone and overall hive condition and importance, and a wealth of information from well known and leading beekeepers as tutors.

In short, the annual Swanpool Field Day of the NEAA is always a must attend event for beekeepers of all levels and I was interested to note that one alcohol wash of one hive turned up four mites!



Updated Biosecurity Code of Practice and Manual

Updated Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice

As a result of the arrival and endemic status of *Varroa destructor* within Australia, a project under the National Transition to Management of Varroa Mite was to address necessary changes to the Code of Practice as well as the Biosecurity Manual.

The Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice (the Code) has been developed in consultation with beekeepers and governments to provide a clear framework for Australian beekeepers to engage in best-practice biosecurity.

In the context of beekeeping, *biosecurity* can be defined as a set of preventive measures designed to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of pests or diseases in bees. The principles of good beekeeping biosecurity describe the actions a beekeeper should take to minimise the impact of pests and diseases on their bees and the bees of other beekeepers.

The objectives of the Code are to:

- Increase productivity in the Australian honey bee

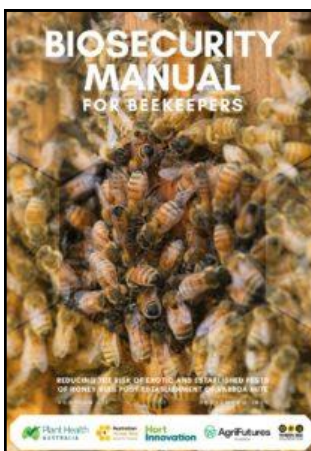
industry by improving the general level of pest and disease control by Australian beekeepers.

- Assist beekeepers in recognising exotic pests and diseases of bees and prepare for an exotic or emerging pest/ disease response.
- Ensure beekeepers conduct regular surveillance for the presence of exotic and endemic pests and diseases.
- Assist with the management of Varroa mite in Australia.
- Assist in the management of significant endemic diseases of bees, particularly American foulbrood (AFB).
- Facilitate the cross-border movement of bees through

adoption of a single national code for biosecurity practices.

- Ensure the future viability and sustainability of the Australian honey bee industry

Both documents are now available for all beekeepers across Australia, with access to download via the AHBIC website www.honeybee.org.au/biosecurity



From the AHBIC October Newsletter

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New Ownership For Hive & Wellness Imminent

By John Kennedy

A change of ownership for Hive & Wellness and its key honey brands Capilano, Barnes, Wescobee, Byron Bay and The Honey Collective is considered likely before the end of this calendar year.

The three owners of the company, the Kerry Stokes Group, the private equity firm ROC and Wattle Hill Capital have appointed Rothschild & Co to solicit offers for the \$160 million sales established honey business.

Offers were required by October 30.

Media reports suggest that the Hive & Wellness business is the “undisputed category leader” with a 60%

market share and the biggest honey packing operation in the southern hemisphere.

Almost 50% of its \$160 million budgeted sales for the current financial year are attributed to the Capilano honey brand.

The offer follows the successful sale of NZ honey business Egmont Honey - formerly owned by Nestle and purchased by China’s Huatai International Private Equity Fund earlier this year.

The reports suggest there is also a sales process in play for the NZ public company Comvita honey business.

Dear VAA Members,

We write with the sad news that Keith Alfred Cane, father of VAA members Ian and Max Cane, has passed away. Keith was a long-time commercial beekeeper, starting work with his father, Alf, at Cane's Honey in the late 1940s. The enterprise sold honey to retailers as well as to the Australian Army. After leaving commercial beekeeping for a short period, Keith became a respected Apiary Inspector in Victoria and resumed beekeeping in the mid 1980s to the early 2000s. Keith was a long-time and valued member of the Gippsland Apiarists Association, serving as an Executive Member as far back as 1967.

We send our condolences to Ian, Robyn and the entire Cane family.



The poster features a large, scenic aerial photograph of Melbourne, Australia, showing the city skyline, a large body of water (likely Port Phillip), and surrounding green spaces. In the top left corner, there is a logo for the Victorian Apiarists' Association Inc (VAA) consisting of stylized letters 'VAA' in black and yellow, with the full name 'VICTORIAN APIARISTS' ASSOCIATION INC' in black text below it. To the right of the logo, the text 'VAA 2026 Conference and AGM Melbourne' is displayed in large, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the poster, a green banner contains the text 'Join the 2026 Conference Planning Committee!' and 'Contact vaa@vicbeekeepers.com.au' in white font.

**VAA 2026
Conference and AGM
Melbourne**

Join the 2026 Conference Planning Committee!
Contact vaa@vicbeekeepers.com.au

AHBIC CEO Report Extracts

Kashmir Bee Virus detection in Victoria

The National Varroa Transition to Management Program Virus Baseline project has been completed with sampling of bees from across Australia. We reported on this project in the August newsletter but were unable to talk to the Kashmir Bee Virus detection until it had been cleared by CCEPP and Agriculture Victoria.

Kashmir Bee Virus was thought to be endemic in Australia after being reported in 80's, however contemporary virus surveys have failed to detect the virus since then. It is thought that the initial reports in the 80's could have been mistaken for Israeli Acute Paralysis Virus, which is closely aligned to Kashmir but was not a known virus in the 80's. This theory is further validated by the baselining survey finding Kashmir in a few apiaries and only in Victorian samples, not broadly across Australia. If Kashmir was established in the 80's you would expect it to broadly spread and detectable across Australia by now. Conversely, the baseline revealed Israeli Acute Paralysis Virus is widespread across Australia indicating it has been present in Australia for some time.

Due to the extended time between sampling and lab processing and the number of dispersed apiaries that were positive it was determined by the CCEPP that it was not technically feasible to eradicate Kashmir Bee Virus. This means that no further action will be taken.

Varroa Treatments

The recent registration of the GreenLight product

“Norroa” in parts of the United States, has created discussion in our industry. AHBIC has been in regular contact with the manufacturer, GreenLight, for the last couple of years encouraging them to consider Australia as a market. AHBIC has facilitated a local researcher, Dr Emily Remnant to assist in trialing the product in Australia.

“Norroa” is based on RNAi technology which interferes with the mite's ability to reproduce. In addition to the local trials there are another couple of local organisations developing similar treatment technology. We are in close communications with both organisations and are providing any assistance we can to get the products to market as quickly as possible.

Industry Levy Reform

AHBIC has developed a detailed business case for levy reform following the consultation at each of the state conferences. This business case will form the basis for industry communications that will roll out in the coming months. Once the industry consultation is completed then we will hold an industry ballot (online) that will allow anyone effected by the changes to provide feedback and a vote on the changes. We will need a majority in favour vote result to progress the levy changes through to government. We anticipate this ballot occurring early in the new year.

From AHBIC October Newsletter

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Breaking Good

By Andrew Wootton

Winter interruptions to brood rearing are beneficial in the fight against varroa. I've had several eminent beekeepers from the colder climates of New Zealand and Scotland tell me so. Indeed, they report that in combination with the gradual emergence of some degree of natural mite resistance, this means they need treat only once a year with oxalic acid. But how will Australians fare in our milder climate?

Beekeepers are inventive, brood break strategies have materialized. I've heard of American beekeepers simply pinching all their queens! The hives raise new ones under the emergency response and the delay before the new queen emerges, mates and commences egg-laying provides a month-long brood break. This is perhaps a little gung-ho, but splits and swarms also experience a natural brood break which can be taken advantage of. Finally, caging the queen provides a good option (perhaps not if you are running hundreds of hives) so let's look at this in more detail.

First, why does it work? A brood break causes poorly understood mechanisms of mite non-reproduction (eg uncapping behaviour) that reduces mite numbers (Gabel et al 2023). But the main effect of caging the queen and interrupting brood production is that it constrains mites to the adult bees (the dispersal and hence exposed phase). This doubles the efficacy of a subsequent organic acid treatment compared to one when large numbers of mites are hidden below the brood cappings (Berry et al 2023).

Queen cages come in two varieties. Those that stop her laying and those that are built to contain one or more combs.

The Italian Var-Control Cage Mozzato (fig 1) is a prominent model of the former, VAA supplied a sample in our 2024 Annual Conference satchels. I'm sure many manufacturers provide alternatives. The queen is located and confined within the cage for 16-18 days followed by oxalic acid treatment of the hive on the 24th day (see sidebar for notes on timing). Alternatively, it is possible to both free the queen and treat on the 24th day, thereby reducing the manipulations from 3 to 2. A possible drawback is that a queen confined for this length of time may take a while to recommence laying and furthermore, the worker bees may suspect all is not well and decide to supersede.



Fig 1



Fig 2

The Scalvini cage (fig 2) is a recent development for queen caging. The queen is kept inside and can lay eggs, but the cells are not drawn out and capped as there is insufficient depth to the cage. The workers, sensing that something is wrong, remove the larvae, allowing further egg laying. After 21-24 days all brood in the remainder of the hive has emerged and treatment with oxalic acid is initiated. The ingenuity of the Scalvini cage is that it should ensure the continuous presence of open brood pheromone, avoiding supersedure problems.

Comb trapping cages (fig 3) enclose the queen on full-size brood combs, allowing her to continue laying. The comb with its brood and mite load is removed before bee (and mite) emergence and either frozen or destroyed. As before, provided trapping extends over a full brood cycle, a follow up treatment with oxalic acid successfully targets the now exclusively phoretic mites. Since laying and brood production continues throughout, supersedure is not triggered.

Alternatively, with diligent timing and manipulation, it is possible to trap and remove virtually all the mites, obviating the need for any chemical treatment. Here's how, it can get complicated!



Fig 3

With a single frame cage, it is necessary to remove and replace the frame, once all the cells have been laid with eggs and the larvae (and varroa) capped over. The frame is replaced every 9 days, requiring visits on day 1, 9, 18, 27 and 36 (Queen Trapping Fact Sheet, National Bee Unit, UK). Throughout, 3 frames have been added and removed, which should ensure all mites have been captured.

More simply but somewhat less effectively, you can probably get away with simply waiting for all the cells on the first frame to be capped and replacing this frame, with removal of the second frame 24 days later.

A more adroit approach is described on the website of Mana Queen in New Zealand. Here a two frame cage is

(Continued on page 21)

Breaking Good, cont'd

(Continued from page 20)

loaded with the queen, one frame of drawn comb and one of foundation. After 12 days the capped frame is removed and replaced with another drawn comb. At day 24 both frames are removed and the queen released. Since the foundation takes time to be drawn out, there should be laying space continuously available and nearly all mites will have moved into the trapped and removed frames. However, to be exacting, any drones laid in the main body of the hive on days -1 to -5 will have emerged and since mites typically remain phoretic for 6 days, these will have evaded your careful plan. You could perhaps extend the two intervals from 12 to 14 days to address this chink in your strategy.

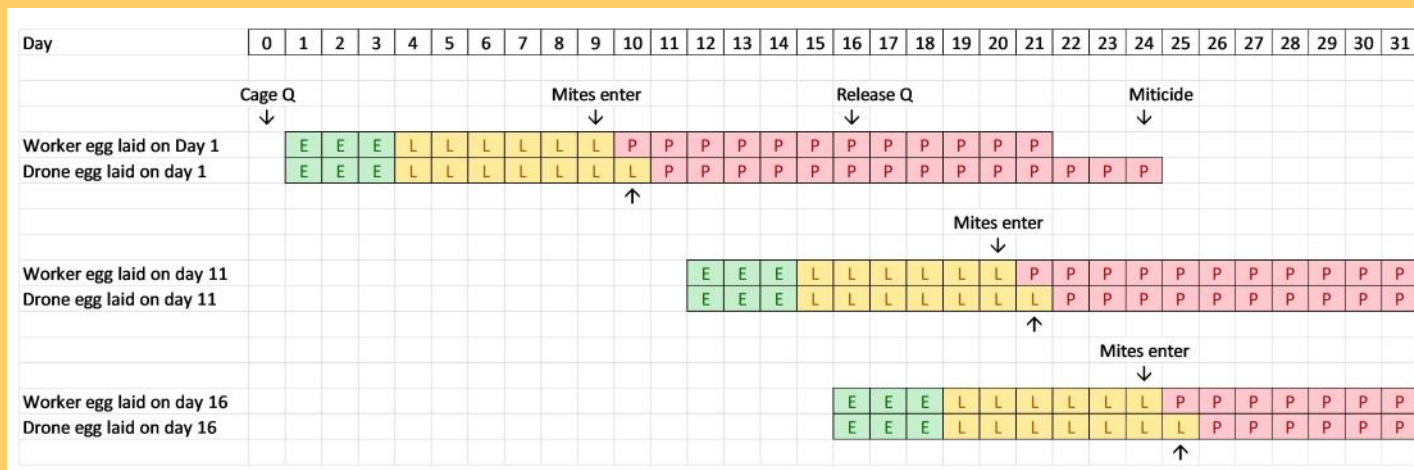


Fig 4

Finally, if these cage techniques and manipulations seem overcomplicated, using either a special drone frame (fig 4) or alternatively positioning a WSP or ideal in a deep box (allowing the bees to draw drone comb in the space below), followed by removal and freezing will produce similar benefits. The bees will be pleased to make drones, the mites will be delighted to take up residence and although honey production may be somewhat reduced, the lowered hive stress due to varroa removal will compensate (Seeley 2002). Just be sure to remove the frame before the bees (and mites) start emerging, otherwise your efforts will have been counterproductive!

Andrew Wootton is Vice President of the VAA and a certified master beekeeper with the Eastern Apicultural Society of N America. He first started beekeeping in the 1960s.

Timing



- Earliest day for queen release is day 16.
- All brood outside cage will have emerged by day 24.
- Brood inside cage must be removed by day 21 otherwise mites will escape. But delay until then to capture mites entering brood laid on day 11.
- Earliest mite entry to brood after release is day 24 so treatment required on day 24.

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New Bee Books

By John Kennedy

SUSTAINABLE HONEY BEE BREEDING

Five highly accredited researchers (the majority holding PhD degrees) have combined to edit a new 247 page paperback which carries the title *Sustainable Honey Bee Breeding* with the subtitle – *A Scientific Guide for Future Bee Breeding*.

The preface of the new book says it is “the result of collaborative efforts which have taken place over the past 20 years within the COLOSS network when the ‘bee losses’ was first put into the equation of factors involved in colony losses.

“It aims to provide beekeepers, apicultural students and beekeeping enthusiasts with the scientific background necessary to understand these new ideas so that future beekeeping may be based on existing local bee genotypes which can then be improved by selective breeding”.

The authors are Cecilia Costa, Manna Meixnar, Norman Carrick, Aleksandar Uzunov and Ralph Buchler all of whom hold impressive credentials, and a team of 30 scientists, extension specialist and beekeepers from 16 countries around the world.

The book comes in two parts – first on honey bees and beekeeping, with the second part on guidelines and techniques for sustainable honey bee breeding.

It covers the methodology for setting up performance testing, the costs of selection through rearing queens and the very special mating biology of the honey

bee. It seems to cover aspects that are not addressed by regularly available texts on this important topic.

It is also supported by a supplementary free on-line video which is accessible from the app provided by the publisher Springer.

The new publication is available at a cost of 34.99 sterling (plus \$A conversion and postage) from [Northern Bee Books](http://NorthernBeeBooks.com).

New Book on Natural Beekeeping

A weighty new paperback just published (395 pages) is likely to gain readership from those beekeepers who covet miticide free treatments of the varroa problem.

It carries the title of *Beekeeping in Harmony with Nature* with the bewitching sub title of - *The Evolutionary Solution to the Varroa Problem*.

It comes from [Northern Bee Books](http://NorthernBeeBooks.com) at a purchase cost of 55 pounds Sterling, plus \$A conversion and postage.

The book is authored by Bartłomiej Maleta (a Polish beekeeper) described as a lawyer, today a beekeeper and co-founder of a number of beekeeping groups bringing together enthusiasts of nature based beekeeping.

He is described as an “advocate of the method of running an apiary in accordance with the biology of bees shaped during their evolution and the need to re-build wild populations of honey bees”.

The publisher notes that “this book will appeal to

(Continued on page 23)



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New Bee Books, cont'd

(Continued from page 22)

anyone thinking of trying to move away from using varroa miticides as the book contains lots of practical advice along with supporting science."

It will be of interest to those wanting to keep their bees in a more natural way.

Originally written in Polish, the book comes in an English translation by Stephen Martin.

It includes six main chapters including "almost 400 beautifully illustrated pages" and is written by a bee-

keeper for beekeepers.

Likely to be of special interest is the concluding chapter of Bees and People which covers a number of bee species living around the world without varroa treatment.

It also includes summaries of the activities of leading treatment-free exponents in the USA, the UK and Austria.

So, if you want to know about alternative varroa approaches this book looks like a good, albeit expensive place to start.

UK'S NATIONAL HONEY SHOW BREAKS RECORDS

By John Kennedy

THE UK's 94th annual National Honey Show, held at the Sandown Park Racecourse in Esher in Surrey, (only about 45 minutes by train outside of London), has been judged a record breaking success.

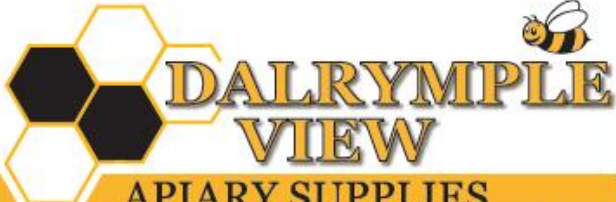
Held October 22-24 there were record entries in the competitive honey and related classes with entries totalling 2,658 from 25 countries, record trade show exhibits, and there was a lecture program providing 100 speaker presentations.

The workshop program provided over 30 short courses on topics as diverse as skep making, super natural cosmetics, microscopy, photography, mead making and enjoyment, candle making, honey tasting and food security, beeswax production cleaning and presentation, apideas, Asian hornets and miticide treatments for varroa - all delivered by expert practitioners.

As is customary the National Honey Show will make available progressively most of the speaker presentations by YouTube on their website www.nationalhoneyshow.co.uk

There are currently 100 presentations available on the site from previous editions of the show.

I have attended this major event in beekeeping twice, and if you are ever able to combine it with other UK travel plans it comes highly recommended.



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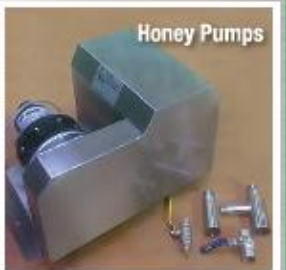
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Nutrition Of Honey Bees

Study with surprising results UNIVERSITY OF WÜRZBURG

Plants produce large quantities of nutrient-rich pollen in their flowers – a real powerhouse for many insects, including honey bees: they mix pollen that is rich in protein and fat into the food they use to nourish their larvae. Younger bees also consume the pollen themselves to build up their strength.

These plant-based energy sources are extremely important for honey bees. A lack of pollen can delay their development, make them more vulnerable to pathogens and more sensitive to pesticides. Scientific studies also show that a more diverse pollen mix improves the health and winter survival of bee colonies.

Possible Double Burden: Food Shortage and Pesticides

Late summer should therefore be a particularly difficult time for honey bees. At this time of the year, few plants are in bloom and the food supply is dwindling. In addition, the pollen that is still available may contain residues of pesticides used in agriculture.

This double burden could be particularly hard on the bees, particularly during a season that is already critical for them: in late summer, the long-lived winter bees develop in the hives. Their vitality determines whether the colony will survive the cold season unscathed.

Beehives Placed in Lower Franconia

So what is the nutritional situation of honey bees in late summer – particularly in agricultural regions? Researchers from the Chairs of "Animal Ecology and Tropical Biology" and "Behavioral Physiology and Sociobiology" at the University of Würzburg's Biocenter investigated this question. They placed 36 honey bee colonies at nine different locations in Lower Franconia. The proportion of annual cropland varied significantly around each beehive, ranging from 43 to 97% within a radius of two kilometres.

From the beginning of July to mid-August, the researchers took samples from the pollen traps in front of the beehives every third day. They analysed which plant species were visited by the bees and studied pollen diversity and pesticide residues. The results have been published in the renowned journal *Agriculture, Ecosystems and Environment*.

Same Pollen Diversity and Low Pesticide Levels

The results surprised the team led by Professors Ingrid Steffan-Dewenter and Ricarda Scheiner: the diversity of the pollen collected was always similar, regardless of whether there was a large or small amount of annual cropland surrounding the beehives. Equally unexpected: the pollen contained only small amounts of pesticides.

So could honey bees also thrive in intensively farmed agricultural landscapes in late summer?

Doctoral student Sarah Manzer, the lead author of the publication, offers a caveat: "Our results should not be overgeneralised. In our study, landscapes with a high proportion of annual cropland still contained many different fields. These can provide flowering resources along field edges as well as a range of pollen-producing weeds within the various crops." In other countries with

significantly larger areas of arable land, such as the USA, the landscape may offer significantly less food.

Furthermore, different countries have different regulations on pesticide use, which can lead to varying levels of pesticide contamination. In order to obtain a comprehensive picture of the impact of agricultural land on honey bees, further studies in other areas and at other times of the year are necessary, especially in spring, when more pesticides are used.

Clover at the Top of the Pollen Suppliers

"DNA metabarcoding revealed 140 different pollen species in our 540 pollen samples," says doctoral student Sarah Manzer. The bees most frequently collected pollen from clover species, followed by cornflower pollen and sunflower pollen.

On average, bees carried pollen from ten different plants into the hive over a period of three days. This is neither a large nor a small amount. Similar values have been reported in other studies. The bees may compensate for the scarcity of flowers in late summer by flying greater distances in search of food.

Around 60 Per Cent of Samples Pesticide-free

The researchers found pesticide residues in 39% of the pollen samples. Among the 16 pesticides detected, fungicides (agents used to combat fungi that damage plants), were the most common.

"In terms of concentration, the pesticide doses found are moderate to low; direct lethal effects on honey bees are not to be expected," says Sarah Manzer, based on the results of various scientific studies. However, "we cannot rule out the possibility of gradual damage to bees through negative long-term effects. Furthermore, there is limited knowledge about potential interactions with other pesticides. We also do not know the impact on significantly smaller wild bees, for example." Further studies are needed to shed more light on this issue.

Partner Universities

In addition to the Würzburg researchers, teams from the Technical University of Kaiserslautern-Landau (Carolina Honert, Carsten Brühl / pesticide analysis, pesticide evaluation) and Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (Alexander Keller / evaluation of DNA metabarcoding data to determine pollen diversity) were involved in the study.



Photo: Doug Heckathorn - Broccoli Bee

UBC Research

UBC research reveals why honey bees overthrow their queen

New research shows how queen viral infections disrupt colony stability — and identifies a key pheromone that could help maintain cohesive, productive hives.

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

It sounds like the plot of a medieval historical drama: A once-powerful monarch, weakened by illness, is overthrown by her previously loyal subjects. But in honey bee colonies, such high-stakes coups aren't just fantasy — they're a common occurrence that comes with both risk and reward for bee colonies and the food systems that depend on them.

Known as supersedure, the process occurs when the tens of thousands of worker bees in a colony sense their queen is no longer laying enough eggs and coordinate to replace her with a new, healthier queen. While this survival strategy helps wild colonies adapt, it can spell trouble for managed hives, leading to gaps in egg-laying, weaker colony populations and ultimately less pollinating and honey production.

Now, researchers at the University of British Columbia have made an important discovery that illuminates why these violent revolts occur and how they're coordinated with such remarkable synchronicity.

Published recently in *PNAS*, the research team found that common viral infections shrink a queen's ovaries, reducing both her egg-laying capacity and her production of methyl oleate, a pheromone that normally keeps workers loyal. When methyl oleate levels drop, workers will "smell" the queen's weakness and begin preparing her successor.

"A healthy queen can lay as many as 850 to 3,200 eggs per day, which is more than her whole body weight," said senior author Dr. Leonard Foster, a professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at UBC's Faculty of Medicine and Michael Smith Laboratories. "But in our experiments, virus-infected queens laid fewer eggs and produced less methyl oleate. That pheromone reduction seems to be the signal to workers that a queen is no longer fit to continue."

Bees pollinate about one-third of the world's crops, making them essential to healthy food systems, food security and the health of people and communities worldwide.

Beekeepers have been reporting problems with queen failure and premature supersedure for many years, with recent surveys identifying "poor queens" as the most frequently reported cause of overwintering losses.

The research highlights how viral infections are a driving factor behind these challenges, disrupting the delicate balance of chemical signals that maintain order in a hive.

Importantly, the findings also point to a practical way for beekeepers to intervene and manage supersedure. In proof-of-concept field trials, colonies given synthetic pheromone blends that included methyl oleate were much less likely to rear new queens compared to colonies that received blends without it.

"That could be a big deal for beekeepers," said Dr.

Foster. "Supersedure can be disruptive and costly, but supplementing colonies with methyl oleate could help stabilize hives during periods when continuous productivity is most important."

The findings open the door to new management strategies for commercial beekeepers dealing with viral outbreaks, especially during periods of peak pollination or honey production to prevent untimely queen loss.

"Our research really emphasizes how virus infections in queens can be a major problem for beekeepers," said first author Dr. Alison McAfee, a research associate at UBC's Michael Smith Laboratories and North Carolina State University. "Previous studies showed that failing queens were heavily infected with viruses, and now we know that those infections can lead to supersedure, which is risky for the colony and expensive for beekeepers to manage."

The research also highlights the role of varroa mites — parasitic pests that can spread the viruses linked to queen failure — underscoring the importance of keeping colonies healthy and parasite-free.

Queen infections are so far an underappreciated problem, said Dr. McAfee, who hopes that this research will change that.

"Keeping the queen healthy is one more reason why it is so critical to think ahead and keep varroa levels under control," Dr. McAfee added. "There is currently no treatment for viruses in honey bee colonies, but now that we better understand their impact, we can change the way we manage varroa to give the queen a better chance."



Photo: Tino Corsetti

Research: Bees And Electric Grids

Can honey bee-inspired research make electric grids more resilient?

PENN STATE UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa.

What do honey bees and electric power grids have in common? More than you might think, according to Wangda Zuo, professor of architectural engineering at Penn State. Zuo is leading a new project funded by a \$1 million award from the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) to investigate how coordinating and controlling distributed energy resources — similar to how honey bees regulate their colony's resources — may help improve the distribution resiliency of electric grids.

Working with collaborators at the University of Colorado Boulder, the University of Vermont and industry partner Evoke Systems, the team is specifically exploring how insights from honey bee colonies can improve coordination and resilience in distributed energy resources, like rooftop solar and community microgrids. By mimicking the way bees communicate and adapt to challenges, the researchers aim to design a “virtual peer-to-peer electric network,” according to Zuo, that could withstand disruptions and help modernize how energy is delivered.

In the following Q&A, Zuo explained why looking to nature can inspire new ways of solving critical infrastructure challenges.

Q: Why look to honey bees for inspiration in grid

design?

Zuo: Honey bees are masters of coordination. Inside a hive, thousands of bees work together sharing food, balancing needs and keeping the colony running smoothly without any central command. That's exactly the kind of teamwork we need for the future electric grid.

Our project borrows ideas from the way bees exchange and store energy to build smarter, more resilient power systems. If bees can manage complex energy sharing in nature, we can learn from them to design grids that are flexible, efficient and self-organizing.

Q: How does this honey bee-inspired approach differ from traditional grid control?

Zuo: Today's electric grid is like a top-down organization. Decisions flow from a few operators, and power mostly flows one way. But as more homes add solar panels, batteries and electric vehicles, the grid is becoming more dynamic and unpredictable.

Our honey bee-inspired approach flips the model. Instead of waiting for central commands, devices like electric vehicles or heat pumps can “talk” to each other and share energy directly, much like bees deciding when to feed each other or store honey. This peer-to-peer coordination could make the grid more adaptable and resilient, especially during storms or high-demand periods

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Research: Bees And Electric Grids, cont'd

(Continued from page 26)

Q: How might this approach to energy distribution look for everyday consumers in the future?

Zuo: Imagine a neighborhood where homes, cars and batteries automatically share energy the way bees share food. Your electric car could help power your house — or even your neighbor's — during an outage.

This kind of “energy sharing network” could lower costs, reduce blackouts and make energy more accessible for everyone, especially in communities that have struggled with high energy bills. In short, it's a smarter,

fairer and more resilient grid for the 21st century.

Q: What role does your team at Penn State play in this collaborative project?

Zuo: At Penn State, we're leading the overall effort and focusing on how buildings and their energy systems, such as heat pumps and water heaters, can act as smart partners in the grid. We're working closely with researchers at the University of Colorado Boulder, the University of Vermont and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Together, we're blending biology, computer science and engineering to test these ideas in virtual simulations and real-world microgrids.



Photo: Tino Corsetti

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Apimondia 2025

By Kris Fricke

Over 8,000 beekeepers, from all over the world (144¹ countries to be precise) all came together the last week of this past September, for the 49th world beekeeping congress, Apimondia. There we listened to over 300 presentations from leading experts around the world, mingled among the 216 booths in the expo exhibiting the latest products and technology, and discussed everything on our mind about beekeeping with old and new friends from around the world.

For those of us coming from Australia it is of course always a difficult time of the year to get away, occurring at the height of Spring and swarming season (67 made the trek though!). On top of that, Copenhagen isn't close to Australia! It took me 26 hours, 45 minutes, to fly there with layovers in Bangkok and Munich (\$2,289.24 round trip). On arrival I was struck by how pleasant and mild the weather seems to be anywhere that isn't Melbourne. I could go out without a jacket or multiple layers!

Central Copenhagen consists of blocks of elegantly aged picturesque five story apartments with shops on the first floor, connected by roads with very little traffic because the bike lanes are used extensively. The sidewalks are smoothly cobblestoned and you're always within a block of a bakery selling delicious pastries. If you're in the historic area there's frequent canals, castles, and ancient towers with tall copper-green spires.

The conference center (Bella Center) was just a fifteen minute ride on the clean and easy-to-navigate metro from the city center – in fact the digital displays in the metro welcomed Apimondia attendees and advised us of which line to take and where to get off. The conference went from opening ceremonies on Tuesday (Sept 23rd)



Apimondia 49 was held at the Bella Center the second largest exhibition center in Scandinavia.

Photo: Ashton Edgley

evening until the following Saturday, with usually four or five simultaneous sessions of presentations going on at one time. The sessions covered everything from apitherapy to marketing and economics, (and of course everything in between) with the individual sessions arranged thematically, which aided one in choosing whole sessions to sit in on rather than having to run back and forth between halls.

Starting at 9am on Wednesday

morning I was hurrying not to be late for “the physiological effects of oxalic acid on honey bee physiology” and four solid days of great talks were begun! Bee health was of course a major topic and the category of sessions I mostly attended. The major themes I detected, as distinguished from previous Apimondias, is the *Tropilaelaps* mite now has the world's experts' full attention, and everyone everywhere still considers varroa the primary threat to their bees, with interest now focusing on organic miticides and breeding for resistance. Yellow legged hornet is by now established across Europe and while it's still a major concern to Europeans I felt like I heard less about it than two years ago. Similarly Small Hive Beetle doesn't seem to be spreading significantly from the one location it is established in in southern Italy, though they don't believe it is possible to eradicate it from there. I didn't make it to any honey adulteration related presentations but this has been an ongoing serious concern throughout the world.

One presentation I found particularly interesting was by Canadian Maxime Franco with Nectar Technologies, in which² they ran a statistical analysis comparing 16

different factors from miticide treatments to weather in relation to the mortality of 103,477 hives tracked from 2020-2023, and rather sur-



The famous Nyhavn new harbor waterfront, one of numerous very beautiful sights in Copenhagen, Photo: Ashton Edgley

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Apimondia 2025, cont'd

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prisingly found that air quality was the single factor of greatest impact on hive mortality. My first thought about air quality was industrial pollution but of course the most significant impact on air quality comes from wild fires, which are only expected to increase in frequency with climate change.

Another particularly interesting presentation for me was the Swedish Agricultural University (SLU) presentation on their famous “Bond method” “Live and Let Die” resistance program on the Swedish Island of Gotland. “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Insights and trends from a 20 year natural selection experiment.” This project is often cited by the many people very eager to just let varroa rip in order to develop natural resistance, but they pointed out that the population of colonies in the study area was reduced by about 90% by 2003 ... and never did bounce back. Ever since the numbers have held steady at about 10% of the levels they had been at prior to the mass varroa die off. They caution:

“The growing trend of “natural” or treatment-free beekeeping, when advocating for minimal intervention to improve bee health, is an oversimplification of natural selection processes, at the cost of high mortality rates.

Evolution through natural selection does not always guarantee improved prospects for long term survival....

Successful treatment-free beekeeping is possible but requires diligent and well-educated beekeepers.

It should not come at the cost of healthy bees and healthy ecosystems.

We should consider a more holistic view, perhaps IPM management.”³

And one other specific presentation I'll highlight: I'd heard a rumor early on that someone was revealing a new way to quickly find and catch queens, which obviously can be useful for quickly caging them to make a brood break for an oxalic treatment. We speculated maybe it had something to do with a pheromone lure? I wasn't really expected much, it sounds like someone's wishful thinking. Well it turned out to be surprisingly simple! The “magnetto” device is a sort of magnetized wand, they put a little metal chip on the back of the queen similar to existing methods of putting a marker on her, and by merely slowly passing the magnetized wand along the brood frames there's a gentle metallic clink and there she is stuck to the wand, from whence she can be easily removed and placed in a cage. Apparently they've been testing this out in the field and it really works. I don't think it's publicly available yet but if this sounds good to you look out for it in the future.

But on the subject of innovations it was not this that won the gold medal for best innovation, but our own Simon Mildren of Hivekeepers (<https://hivekeepers.com/>) with his micro honey harvester!

A “global honey bar” was set up across several long tables in the central breezeway, hosting over 250 honeys from 42 countries. I foolishly waited for the line to di-

minish which never actually happened, the popular opportunity to taste honeys from around the world attracting 3,000 tastings per hour throughout the conference!

The expo filled an acre and a half of one grand hall, with 177 exhibitors and 44 trade stalls,⁴ all kinds of companies, organizations and national groups were showing off their latest equipment and services, and always, always, everywhere you looked people having a great time talking with each other about all things bees.

We attempted to do a live vidcast from Apimondia for the VAA “HiveMeet” youtube channel, featuring VAA President Lindsay Callaway, Mike Allerton of Amateur Beekeepers Australia, and myself. Unfortunately, though HiveMeet usually achieves fairly impressive production standards, the fact that we had no specialized equipment other than our phones made it a bit of a fiasco where we were often hard to hear, and I actually couldn't hear anything anyone was saying. Still though, if you want to have a glimpse of what it looks like on the conference floor, check it out on the youtube HiveMeet channel and don't blame the regular Hivemeet production staff for our shortcomings. Next time we should be better prepared with more proper equipment.

Part of the fun of big conferences like this is seeing old friends, especially if you've been in the industry for a long time and all over the world. I ran into someone I first met in Tanzania in 2014, someone else from western Ethiopia 2012, and Dr Sue Cobey who taught me Instrumental Insemination back in 2011 in California ... and going way way back I met the local beekeeping club president of the small town in Sweden where I was an exchange student nearly 30 years ago! The conference officially declared an “official pub” in central Copenhagen which was actually a great idea because rather than being dispersed all over the city many of us all ended up in the same place every evening. I also organized what I hope will be a new tradition getting the editors of various bee magazines around the world together for dinner.

Usually a major undercurrent of the conference is the competing bids to host the next-after-next conference. i.e. the next conference in 2027 will be in Dubai (Tanzania won the vote last time but their venue won't be finished in time), but the host location for 2029 was to be chosen this time. There was only one contender which made things a bit less suspenseful – in 2029 Apimondia will be hosted in Leipzig, Germany (in September, mind, that will be Oktoberfest...).

I always enjoy the technical tours associated with Apimondia. In this case I actually ended up on an unofficial technical tour with a Finnish group that had chartered a bus all the way from Finland (via ferry across the Baltic) visiting various beekeeping related sites along the way, and they had room for a few more to join the 33 of them on their bus the day after Apimondia ended.

We drove about an hour west to the central-west of Zealand, the island on which Copenhagen is located (New Zealand is actually named after a *different* Zealand, a Dutch province). There we arrived at the Buckfast queen rearing operation that Keld Brandstrup ran

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Apimondia 2025, cont'd

(Continued from page 29)

for many decades (he's in the process of handing it over to one Mogens Mundt).



Danish queen breeder Keld Brandstrup tells us about his operation

Keld had been a teacher, until one Friday in the early 1970s while he was drinking white wine with a friend on the porch they heard a buzzing noise, a swarm! “You’re going to become a beekeeper!” his friend informed him. He wasn’t quite so sure but he did put it in a hive box. After a few years of losing most of his colonies every winter he decided he should get more serious about it and corresponded with Brother Adam in the UK, who invited him to come over to talk to him about it, so he did, in 1975. That was the beginning of a lifelong friendship, that may have seemed very odd, the monk being friends with “a long haired hashish smoking guy like me”⁵ but somehow it worked. In 1978 he brought his first Buckfast queens from Brother Adam’s UK operation back to Denmark. Today he says 80-90% of the bees in Denmark are Buckfast bees.

“It’s a piece of cake to produce queens, but not so easy to make good queens” he says. Denmark is the only country in the world with legally protected breeding areas, according to Brandstrup. He is able to do his breeding on three islands where no one else is allowed to have bees. They have a 60 day queen breeding season.

They used to have real problems with nosema but they decided they’d never breed from a hive that had any signs of nosema and that eliminated nosema entirely after a few years. I asked if they tried to do anything with varroa resistance and he said no, they just treated with flumethrin in August and oxalic in January (our corresponding months would be March and July). “The most important thing about varroa is to stay on top of it. If you get behind you’ve already lost.”

Shortly later a Danish extension officer told me that sadly this has been the attitude in Denmark, just treat with the chemicals by the calendar.

When asked about the future, he said due to climate

change they’re going to have to breed bees that can withstand higher temperatures, and “we only have three breeders in all of Europe and we’re all the wrong side of 70.”

Next we went to the nearby property of Danish extension officer Flemming Vejsnæs who had many hives enrolled in all sorts of experiments, which we had fun seeing. His property had a sort of mystic quality of being walled in by thick forest but itself was full of flowering gardens with the beehives here and there throughout, altogether giving the feeling of being in an enchanted glen. One in which enterprising gnomes are hooking all kinds of technological innovations to beehives!



Danish extensionist Flemming Vejsnæs's very well monitored bees

Finally we proceeded to the also-nearby headquarters of the Danish Beekeeping Association which shares a very nice building with some other agricultural associations. There they laid out a genuine Danish smorgasbord for us that was very delicious. I was able to pick up from the extensionist office there some beekeeping booklets that look very informative, though they’re in Danish!

Altogether we had a very lovely time in Copenhagen and at Apimondia. The Scandinavian beekeepers were incredibly welcoming and friendly, the city was beautiful, safe, comfortable and full of sites of historical interest. All the Australian beekeepers I’ve asked for feedback about the conference have said it was great and they learned many useful things. I strongly encourage you to consider attending a future Apimondia conference. Dubai in 2027 will actually be in December (which apparently is a cooler month there), which should be slightly easier for us to manage than September.

Another 27 and a half hours via Vienna and Bangkok and we were back in Melbourne pushing through freezing sideways rain to find our car in the airport carpark.

(Continued on page 31)

Apimondia 2025, cont'd

(Continued from page 30)

1. There's inconsistencies in officially published numbers between 7,000 attendees (mentioned at closing ceremony) and 8,000 attendees (mentioned in later email from secretariat when I asked the numbers) and 121 countries represented (mentioned at closing ceremonies) and 144 (mentioned in a subsequent email from Apimondia president Jeff Pettis).

2. Coallier, N., et al., "Poor air quality raises mortality in honey bees, a concern for all pollinators" *Communications Earth and Environment* (2025)6:126 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-025-02082-x>

3. Grander, B.L., (2025, Sept 26th) "The Good the Bad, and the Ugly: Insights and Trends from a 20-year natural selection experiment on disease resistance in Gotland, Sweden" [presentation] 49th Apimondia Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark

4. I realize these numbers don't add up to the 216 booths mentioned earlier, all I can report is the numbers that were announced

5. Brandstrup, K., (2025, Sept 28th) [presentation to group of Finns] Sorø, Denmark

EPA USA APPROVES dsRNA FOR MITE TREATMENTS

By John Kennedy

The Environment Protection Agency (EPA) in the USA has approved and registered new products that have resulted from research work and testing considered as new tools for managing bee diseases and pest including the varroa mite.

The pesticide employs the new active ingredient Vandescana, a dsRNA which through a mechanism called RNA interference prevents the expression of a specific gene that the varroa mite needs to survive.

Its effects are highly specific to the mite, and it does not affect humans or other non-target organisms, or other endangered species. It is able to be combined in pesticides for combating the varroa mite.

Before registering products containing dsRNA the EPA undertook many tests that showed that such threats are highly targeted, affecting insects closely related to the targeted species, that quickly downgrades in the environment and dietary consumption is safe. It is included in a range of existing commercial varroa mite treatments.

A full product listing is provided at the US EPA website www.epa.gov/pollinationprotection/advisory

Greenlight Biosciences, a Boston USA based company has announced that its Norroa™ product has received US EPA approval for the first RNA based treatment for varroa mite.

Greenlight says it "paves the way for beekeepers to combat a critical threat to pollinator health".

Adding that it is the first RNA nature based treatment specifically designed to treat honey bee colonies. They note "the ground breaking innovation provides beekeepers with a critical new tool to protect the pollinators which are critical to US agriculture".

It says that recently analysed data from the Honey Bee Health Coalition underscored by USDA researcher shows that the alarming losses (up to 62% or 1.7 million hives in the latest USA season) is related to the declining efficacy of existing miticides as varroa has developed resistance to chemical miticides once considered reliable. As mites are less controlled they bring high virus loads into colonies, leading to loss".

They say that ripple effects could disrupt food production, drive up farmer and beekeeper costs and threaten the survival of commercial beekeeping operations.

Greenlight Biosciences (www.greenlightbiosciences.com) has created a web site and social media pages to explain its product development, constituents and application, also the EPA approval..

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Agriculture Victoria:

Agriculture Victoria: Apiary team
Website: [Honey bees | Livestock and animals | Agriculture Victoria](http://Honey%20bees%20Livestock%20and%20animals%20Agriculture%20Victoria)
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Email: honeybee.biosecurity@agriculture.vic.gov.au

Adam Maxwell,

Biosecurity Officer Apiary
475-485 Mickleham Road,
Attwood, Victoria, 3049
Mob: 0428 893 595
Email: honeybee.biosecurity@agriculture.vic.gov.au

Karyn Di Florio

Bee Biosecurity Officer
Email: honeybee.biosecurity@agriculture.vic.gov.au

If you can't reach an Officer and need to talk to someone urgently, please call the Customer Service Centre: Ph: 136 186

DEECA Regional contacts for bee sites on Crown land Barwon South West

Geelong, Otway District –
Linda Laurie, Ph: 0408 419 759, E: linda.laurie@deeca.vic.gov.au

Heywood, Far South West –
Troy Jenkin, Ph: 0459 807 401, E: troy.jenkin@deeca.vic.gov.au

Gippsland

Tracey West – Ph:0457 501 299,
tracey.west@deeca.vic.gov.au,
tralaralgon.propertytservices@deeca.vic.gov.au

Grampians

Ballarat – Jennifer Bromley,
Ph: 0448 389 270,
E: publicland.grampians@deeca.vic.gov.au

Horsham – Jess Dickerson, Ph: 0437 913 538,
E: publicland.grampians@deeca.vic.gov.au

Hume

E: landadmin.hume@deeca.vic.gov.au
Wodonga: Lloyd Beaty is contact

Loddon Mallee

Justin Hoy (primary contact) –
Ph:0459 336 836
Daniel Cadmore (secondary contact) –
Ph: 0418 715 831

Port Phillip (Note: enquiries dealt with by Gippsland Region)

Tracey West – Ph:0457 501 299 E: tracey.west@deeca.vic.gov.au,
tralaralgon.propertytservices@deeca.vic.gov.au

Customer Contact Centre (Ballarat based)

Ph: 136 186
E: customer.service@deeca.vic.gov.au

Statewide Transaction Centre (Seymour based)

Ph: (03) 7019 2577
E: transactioncentre@deeca.vic.gov.au

Other contacts

Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC):

CEO: Danny Le Feuvre
Mob: 0402 467 780
ahbic@honeybee.org.au
5 John St.
Ardrossan, SA, 5571
www.honeybee.org.au

Crop Pollination Association Inc

President: Steve Fuller,
president.cpaa.us@gmail.com
Ph 0488 434 498
Secretary: Janet Clyde
jclyde.cpaa@gmail.com
Ph 0417 494 867

Honey Bee Research & Development committee (HBRDC)

Annie Stoddart
Program Coordinator Research
02 69236918
Annie.stoddart@agrifutures.com.au

VFF State Beekeeping Branch:

Secretary: Gail Rochelmeyer
Mob: 0408 592 091

Collingwood Childrens' Farm Apiary

Open 10.30-3.30
2nd & 4th Sunday of month.
collingwoodbees@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/collingwoodbees

Contacts

VAA Inc Regional Groups

Bendigo Branch:

Secretary: Peta Dawe

bbvaasecretary@gmail.com

Chair: Jamie Trimby

bbvaachair@gmail.com

Treasurer: Michael St.Clair

bbvaatreasurer@gmail.com

General Information Q&A

Meetings - 1st Wed. each month
(except Jan & Dec)

Dinner at 6.00pm (optional)

Meeting at 7.00 pm.

Lakeside Hotel, Bendigo.

Executive Committee Meeting:

3rd Wed month as required.

Venue: As notified.

*Please register to attend all
Meetings*

Melbourne Section:

Chair: A/Prof James Doery

Deputy Chairperson: Mike Love

Secretary, Rob Kerr

Ph: 0421 078 387

Treasurer: Janet Conos

[vaamelbournesection](mailto:vaamelbournesection@hotmail.com)

@hotmail.com

[www.vicbeekeepers.com.au/
Melbourne-Section](http://www.vicbeekeepers.com.au/Melbourne-Section)

Information/ Education Meetings:
from 7:30 pm the last Thursday
of each month except December
Location: Church of Christ,
1 The Avenue, Surry Hills.

Sunraysia Branch:

Naomi Forbes-Wilson

Ph: 0407 243 313

billabonghoney@yahoo.com

VAA Inc. Library Trust

Secretary: Russell Goodman,
Ph 03 9735 3836

Affiliated Organisations

Central Victorian Apiarists' Association Inc (CVAA Inc.):

Millie Enbom-Goad

Ph: 0400 083 582

cvaa_inc@outlook.com

Gippsland Apiarists' Association Inc. (GAA Inc.):

President: Stan Glowacki:

jeeralangapiary@bigpond.com

0413 136 878

Secretary: Neil Barraclough:

neilbarra2@outlook.com

0429 888 706

Treasurer: Sean Paul Smith:

kaledprime@gmail.com

0466 041 199

North Eastern Apiarists' Association Inc. (NEAA Inc.):

Secretary: Moss McCallum

secretary.neaa@gmail.com

"J" Beekeepers Club Inc.

Meets on the second Wednesday
of every month (Except January)

at the Goonawarra Community
Centre, 20 Dornoch Drive,
Sunbury, VIC 3429

Phone: 0400 667 125 (Secretary)

Postal Address: PO Box 87., 84

Bulla Rd., Bulla, VIC 3428

Southside Beekeepers Club:

Secretary: Ted Cottle

Ph: 0428 429 547

ted@southsidebeekeepers.com.au

7.30pm on the 4th Wed each
month at Monterey Secondary
College,
21 Silvertop St, Frankston North

Geelong Beekeepers Club

President: Nathan Whitford

0403 807 224

Vice President: Stephen Fridey

info@geelongbeekeepersclub.org.au

Meetings third Friday of month at
Belmont Masonic Centre,
25 Regent Street, Belmont

Latrobe Valley

Beekeepers Assoc.

President: Sean-Paul Smith

LatrobeValleyBees@gmail.com

Meets 7-9pm first Tuesday each
month, Old Moe Netball Courts,
99 Savages Rd. Moe

P.O. Box 323 Newborough 3825

Mob: 0466 041 199

Woodend Bee-Friendly Society

An action group of the Macedon
Ranges Sustainability Group

E: wbfsmrsg.org.au

Meets on the third Sunday of
every month (except December)
at Woodend Neighbourhood
House, 47 Forest Street,
Woodend, VIC 3442

South Gippsland Beekeepers

Inc. Secretary: Anna Jones

Mob: 0411 770 062

secretary@sgbeekeepers.org.au

Web: [http://www.southgippsland
beekeepers.org.au/](http://www.southgippslandbeekeepers.org.au/)

Meetings: second Thursday of
the month at St Peters Anglican
Church Hall, Cnr McCartin St. &
Bruce St., Leongatha

Melbourne Beekeepers Club Inc:

Web: melbournebeekeepersclub.org.au

E: [secretary@melbourne
beekeepersclub.org.au](mailto:secretary@melbournebeekeepersclub.org.au)

Northwestern Bee Club Inc.

President: Roger Mitchell

Mob. 0407 427 431

northwesternbeeclub@gmail.com

Web: <https://www.nwbee.club/>

Mornington Peninsula Beekeepers Association :

P.O. Box 186, Mornington, 3931

Ph: 0401 965 558

E: admin@mpba.org.au

Monthly MPBA Club Meeting -
4th Wednesday of every month
at 7pm Mornington Park Pavilion,
9 Flinders Drive, Mornington

Moonee Valley Beekeepers Club Inc. (MVBC Inc.)

Secretary: Paul Kucera

mvbeekeepersclub@gmail.com

Meets at 7:30pm on the second
Tuesday of each month (except
January) in the hall at
195 Holmes Rd,
Moonee Ponds, VIC 3039

WerriBeeks Inc.

President: Carmel Gerdson

Secretary: Helen Morland

Treasurer: Debbie Conway

E: werribeeks@gmail.com

**If any contact
details or
information on
these pages is
incorrect please
advise the editor at
abjeditors@yahoo.com**

CLASSIFIEDS

HONEY BUYERS

Archibald's Honey Co.
Spring Rd.
Dingley,
VIC, 3172
Ph: 03 9551 1860
Contact: Stuart Archibald
Email: rosalie@archibaldhoney.com.au

Beechworth Honey Ltd.
38-40 Hammersley Rd.
Corowa,
NSW 2646
Ph: 02 6033 2322
Contact: Steve or
Jodie Goldsworthy

Beeman Honey & Beekeeping Supplies
2/14-16 Tova Dr.
Carrum Downs
Vic 3201
Ph: 0438 7465 01
Contact Moe Jarrad
majarrad@gmail.com
Beemanhoney.com.au

Capilano Honey Ltd
Capilano St.
Maryborough,
VIC 3465
Ph: 07 3712 8224
0419 431 652
Contact: Stephen Covey

Goode's Honey
Lot 1, 75 Bosworth Rd
Bairnsdale,
VIC 3875
Ph: 03 5152 2180
Contact: Terry Goode

Honey Buyers Group
Martin Drake,
Bendigo or
Melbourne
0409 808 332

Redpath's Beekeeping Supplies
193 Como Parade East,
Parkdale,
VIC 3195
Ph: 03 9587 5950
Alan Redpath
redpaths@redpaths.com.au
www.redpaths.com.au

FOR SALE

Business for sale
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Koala Drive, Jeeralang Junction
Ph: 03 5122 2641
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Eastern Victoria

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KAS MANUFACTURING
Ph: 03 5449 6680
Mob: 0409 017 311

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**The deadline for the
December 2025 ABJ
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Monday 1st of December**

**Do you have photos of bee or
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The Australian Bee Journal would
love your photos for use in the
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VAA website.
Please send to
abjeditors@yahoo.com**



John van Weeghel

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\$2.20 per line**
VAA members are reminded that
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Index of Advertisers

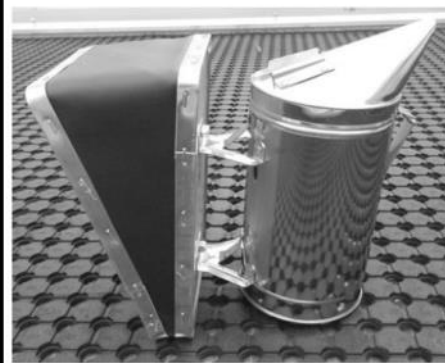
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Contact: vaa@vicbeekeepers.com.au Offer ends 31 December 2025

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